

**Tuesday, 18 September 2007**

## **GOVERNMENT TICKS OFF ON NEW DUAL LANE ROADS FOR MOTORISTS**

The Managing Director of Canberra International Airport, Mr. Stephen Byron, has welcomed the ACT Government's agreement to jointly fund a major road project that will significantly benefit Canberra motorists.

The ACT Government's Budget committed \$7.5 million to the duplication of Pialligo Avenue but the total cost of the project will run to around \$12.4 million. The Airport has agreed to fund the extra costs and meet the costs of managing the project.

Mr. Byron said the new infrastructure would enable the Airport to finalise the internal design work associated with a new terminal. "It was an essential prerequisite to us moving ahead," he said.

"This is a critical piece of infrastructure that will effectively relieve traffic congestion along Pialligo Avenue and at Airport entry points by providing dual lanes for commuters between Queanbeyan, the Airport and Canberra's CBD," Mr. Byron said. "We will see as many as 8 new lanes providing better access to motorists using roads between the Airport and the city."

The project includes the duplication of Pialligo Avenue (ie two lanes each way) beginning at the intersection of Fairbairn Avenue, Beltana Road and Pialligo Avenue and running past Canberra International Airport.

There will also be two lanes built for traffic entering the Airport and the construction of a grade-separated interchange at the Airport's new main entry point so that two lanes of traffic can exit the Airport by passing under Pialligo Avenue and joining traffic heading into the City. This interchange will remove current conflicts between Airport passenger traffic and regional traffic heading to Queanbeyan.

"In addition, a ramp for traffic coming from Queanbeyan to the Airport will diverge off Pialligo Avenue then coil its way under the newly elevated Pialligo Avenue and into the Terminal precinct," Mr Byron said. "Equally a southbound onboard ramp will give passengers heading to Queanbeyan an easy link onto the new road."

Byron said that, subject to planning approval, the project would be completed by the end of 2008.

"The ACT Government and in particular the Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, John Hargreaves, has shown great commitment to finding a solution to the increased congestion on Canberra roads," Mr. Byron said.

Mr. Byron said the construction of thousands of new homes built in Gunghalin has meant we have seen traffic using Horsepark Drive and connecting to Majura Road more than treble from 5,000 to 17,000 vehicles a day.

"When you add this to the 28,000 motorists currently using Pialligo Avenue daily you can begin to see why we need this critical infrastructure" Mr. Byron said. (Roads are generally duplicated at 20,000 vpd)

Mr. Byron also thanked the tireless effort of the Roads Working Group established last year and tasked with the aim of finding solutions to traffic issues in the ACT.

[Click here to view a map of the extension.](#)

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